(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish a paper research institute in Andhra Pradesh as the State is a leading paper producer;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the place selected to set up the institute; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An Institute known as Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute has already been set up in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. This Institute is designed to serve the needs of the whole country in Research and Development pertaining to pulp and paper industry.

Loss to M/s. Coal India Ltd.

@1152 DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated loss to M/s. Coal India Ltd. and how do they compare with the performance of coal mining in advanced countries; and

(b) what steps are being taken to put the coal industry on a healthy footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Accumulated losses of Coal India Ltd., as on 1-4-1987 stood at Rs. 2033.72 crores. Accounts for the year 1987-88 are yet to be finalised. Specific data on losses suffered by Coal Industry in other countries is not available. However, it is generally known that some countries like Australia, South Africa, USA and Socialist countries like USSR, Poland and China are internationally competitive producers of coal while some traditional coal producers in West Europe including UK & West Germany are more or less subsidised.

(b) Main reason for losses in Coal India Ltd. is that the increase in administered price does not fully cover the escalation in the cost of various inputs like wages, power, fuel, explosives, capital etc. However, continuous efforts are being made to reduce the losses. Some of the important steps taken in this regard are briefly indicated below:—

(i) Increase in production and productivity, with special emphasis on underground mines.

(ii) Improvement in availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipment.

(iii) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(iv) Economy in the consumption of spares and various other inputs by improving blasting efficiency, power factor and improved inventory control.

(v) Improved monitoring of cost reduction measures.

(vi) Efforts are being made to reduce the total outstanding against major consumers like State Electricity Boards.

@Previously Unstarred Question 328, transferred from the 4th November, 1988.